

GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

MONTHLY ROUND-UP

Volume 1, Number 10
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Board News

Good Neighbor Environmental Board Meetings for 2001

- ***Feb 7-8 - Full Board Internal Strategic Planning Workshop in Fort Worth, Texas.***
- **March 21-22** - First regular Board meeting of the year.
- **July 25-26** - Second meeting. Calexico or San Diego.
- **October 10-11** - Last meeting of the year. San Antonio or Laredo.

Member News

Board member Mark Spalding has announced his resignation from the Board. Mark's contributions to the work of Good Neighbor since he joined in 1998 have been numerous and are widely recognized. We will miss both his expertise and his enthusiastic participation. We wish Mark all the best.

Planning Workshop

February 7-8, Fort Worth. Goal: Chair Judith Espinosa suggests development of a 2-3 page vision/strategy/plan for GNEB's future work, using Five Year Study as basis. Also, final decision on theme for Fifth Report. Agenda may also include consensus process, role of federal/non-federal Board members, transition package, comment letters, location for 2nd and 3rd meetings, other procedural matters. Rafael Guerrero has lead on site and facilitator.

Fourth Report

Current report on watershed approach continues to be well received. Dissemination ongoing. Targeted distribution to current Executive Branch completed.

Fifth Report

Theme still under discussion; to be finalized at Fort Worth Workshop. Chair invites on-line Board discussion, suggests hazardous materials/waste, with special focus on pesticides, tires other topics. Drafting committee: Marc Sixkiller Ayuwoo, Karen Chapman, Judith Espinosa, Jennifer Kraus, John Klein, Susan Kunz, and Ed Ranger. Others welcome.

Transition Package

Good Neighbor Transition Package to be presented by subset of Board to new Administration representatives this spring. Contents: brochure, white paper on value of Board, description of future direction, workgroup profiles, and copy of Fourth Report. Committee: Irasema Coronado and Judith Espinosa. Others welcome.

Comment Letters

Decision at Brownsville meeting: Board will issue several comment letters in 2001 like that issued in 2000 on NADBank expansion. Possible topics: BECC High Sustainability Indicators, next phase of Border XXI, others.

Panel Proposal

Board Member Bess Metcalf has submitted a draft Good Neighbor panel proposal/place-holder to organizers of Encuentro Fronterizo III, to be held April 26-28. Full Board to discuss concept at Fort Worth Workshop.

Round-Up Readership

Beginning with this issue, the Round-Up will be going out each month to a broader audience. New readers include representatives from border organizations and many former Board members. We appreciate everyone's continued support. Readers are encouraged to submit news and events items for inclusion.

Workgroups

New Workgroup Charge

Good Neighbor's new 2001 Issues Workgroup (members are from the former Infrastructure and Sustainable Development Workgroups) held its first teleconference call on December 20th. Participants said the workgroup will serve as a futures committee, i.e., identify emerging issues. Also synthesize current information on key issues. Goals: help the Board initiate more and react less, enhance strategic planning, inform and enrich current deliberations.

Conference Calls for January

Note: Calls will take place same time each month unless notified otherwise, so please mark your calendars several months in advance. Call-in numbers to follow.

- **Coordination with Mexico** (2nd Tuesday)
Tuesday, January 9th. Time: 11 Eastern, 10 Central, 9 Mountain, and 8 Pacific Time
- **Private Sector** (2nd Wednesday)
Wednesday, January 10th. Time: 12 Eastern, 11 Central, 10 Mountain, and 9 Pacific Time
- **2001 Issues** (3rd Wednesday)
Wednesday, January 17th. Time: 12 Eastern, 11 Central, 10 Mountain, and 9 Pacific Time.

Border Region News

****Note: The items in the section below have been cut-and-pasted and compiled from other documents. Please check a primary source to ensure complete accuracy.****

Air - EPA to set new toxic emission performance requirements for gasoline. See www.epa.gov/otaq/toxics.htm

- EPA to propose new emission standards to regulate the heavy-duty vehicle and its fuel as a single system. See www.epa.gov/otaq/diesel.htm
- EPA to propose regulations that require reduction of mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants. See www.epa.gov/mercury

BECC - New Chair Julian de la Garza has been installed. Also, Board has approved a resolution to extend role of Commission to other types of environmental infrastructure projects. See www.cocof.org

CEC - Winter issue of NACEC newsletter: <http://www.cec.org/trio> Articles on Victor Lichtinger; new head of JPAC, Liette Vasseur; status of PRTR (Pollutant Release and Transfer Register) work in Mexico, etc.

Chemicals - EPA has issued two notices on voluntary expansion of testing chemicals for health and safety reasons. See www.epa.gov/chemrtk

Enforcement/Compliance. EPA and partners have developed a National Compliance Assistance Clearinghouse. See www.epa.gov/clearinghouse

Grants available - Five-Star Restoration Challenge Grants are being offered to support wetland and riparian restoration projects. Average grant is \$10,000. Deadline: March 2nd. See www.nfwf.org/5star-rfp.htm

- Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Basin Coalition has announced its Computer Networking assistance mini-grant program for 2000-2001. Grants of up to \$1,000. Deadline: January 31st. See www.rioweb.org
- Ford Foundation and Advocacy Institute invite applications for emerging leader program. Recipients receive \$100,000 over two years. Deadline January 5th. See www.advocacy.org

Habitat preservation - 38 wetland habitat programs will receive \$25 million in grants this fall to help protect habitat for migratory birds (including 7 in Mexico) through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

- A 7,000 acre property in Coahuila (Rancho Pozas Azules) will be protected through aquisition by Pronatura and the Nature Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy also recently purchased Pichcho Peak in southern New Mexico.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated 5,158 acres of critical habitat in Lower Rio Grande Valley Wildlife Refuge for endangered Texas plant. See www.rioweb.org/Archive

Mexico - Mexico's new environment minister, Victor Lichtinger, has unveiled SEMARNAT's "New Vision," with a strong focus on environmental education. Tiahoga

Ruge has been named as executive director of the Center of Education and Training for Sustainable Development (Cecadesu).

Pesticides - EPA will hold a stakeholder meeting on January 17th in Orlando, Florida, to hear comments about risks related to the organophosphate mosquitocide pesticide, fenthion. See www.epa.gov/REDs/

- EPA has announced an agreement to phase out diazinon. See www.epa.gov/pesticides

Private Sector - DOE has selected 26 universities to receive funds for carrying out energy efficiency assessments of manufacturing plants. Border state recipients include: Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ; San Diego State University, San Diego, CA; and the University of Texas, Arlington, TX.

- EPA has selected 225 charter members in the National Environmental Achievement Track, which recognizes and rewards businesses for exceeding environmental protection requirements. Border-state charter members include Gilroy Foods, Las Cruces, NM ; NASA White Sands Test Facility, Las Cruces, NM; and Snap-On Special Products, Escondido, CA. Next application period begins February 1, 2001. See www.epa.gov/performance-track.

Report - "Global Trends 2015" identifies demographics, natural resources, science and technology as among the issues that will shape the future. See www.cia.gov/cia/publications/globaltrends2015/

Toxics - EPA has announced new standards for lead. See www.epa.gov/lead

- New U.N. protocol on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) negotiated. Calls for eliminating, initially, 12 chemicals including 9 pesticides. See www.epa.gov/ebtpages/poltoxicpersistentorganicpollutantspops.html
- EPA has released a 5-year research strategy on mercury. See www.epa.gov/ORD/WebPubs/final

Water- U.S. and Mexico have signed agreement to cooperate on Colorado River Delta ecology under IBWC. See www.ibwc.state.gov

Calendar

Note: Event listings below have been drawn from other lists and may have changed. Please check a primary source for more details.

Jan 7-9	EPA/Virginia Tech/WEF Integrated Decision-Making for Watershed Management Symposium, Chevy Chase, Md. Contact: mlwolfe@vt.edu
Jan 10	EPA El Paso Border Office monthly open house, El Paso, TX.
Jan 18	EPA Region 6 Environmental Justice Session, Brownsville, TX
Jan 22-26	Sixth Int. Symposium: Effects of Apoxia on Aquatic Systems, La Paz, Baja California, Mexico. See www.montana.edu

Jan 22-26	Interagency Watershed Training Cooperative course, Working at Watershed Level, Fresno, CA. See www.dpla.water.ca.gov
Jan 28-31	AWWA Source Water Protection Symposium, Savannah, GA. Contact: custsvc@awwa.org
	Feb 5-9 International Erosion Control Association's 32 nd Annual Conference & Expo, Las Vegas, NV. See www.ieca.org
Feb 11-13	Clean Water Network's Clean Water Week 2001, Washington, D.C. Contact: cjames@nrdc.org
Mar 5-6	CEC PRTR Project Meeting, Mexico, DF, Mexico
Mar 14	International Day of Action Against Dams and for Rivers, Water & Life. See www.irn.org/dayofaction
Mar 15	CEC Trinational Air Quality Improvement Initiative, North American Trade and Transportation Corridors meeting, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Mar 29 -	BECC mtg. Phoenix, AZ
April 26-28	Encuentro Fronterizo III, Baja California, Mexico
Ap 30-May 2	Border Institute III Rio Rico meeting, Rio Rico, Arizona. See www.scerp.org .
Ap 30-May 2	Rio+10 Prep Comm. See www.un.org/rio+10 .
May 20-23	National Watershed Coalition's conference on Small Watershed Programs, Richmond, VA Contact: jwpeterson@erols.com
May 29-Jun 1	US-Mexico Border Health Association Annual Meeting, Las Cruces, New Mexico
June	National Watershed Forum, Crystal City, VA. See www.cleanwater.gov
June 27-July 1	EPA National Watershed Forum, Arlington, VA.
July 30-Aug 2	Nature Conservancy conference, "Managing River Flows for Biodiversity," Fort Collins, CO. See www.freshwaters.org/conference

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